



Water Fluoridation

Lead Department: Water
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Background

The San Diego Water Department services 1.2 million customers, including the largest concentration of military bases in the United States. It is one of the ten largest water suppliers in the nation – providing 206 MGD per day. By the year 2030, the City's population and economic growth is projected to increase water demands by about 55 million gallons a day (MGD) or 25 percent over 2002 levels.

The City of San Diego's Municipal Code 67.00 prohibits the expenditures of City funds on fluoridation of water. However, Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations requires that water agencies provide a fluoridation system *if* the Department of Health Services (DHS) identifies a source sufficient funds to cover capital and associated costs to install such a system. In 2000, the DHS did identify the California Dental Association (CDA) as the funding source able to provide approximately \$4 million for this program. The Water Department planned to incorporate the fluoridation system into its existing Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Unfortunately, the CDA rescinded that offer recently and the City is back to having no fluoridation program.

The City of San Diego's Municipal Code prohibits any penalty by the Department of Health Services regulations in this matter. In recognition of the public popularity of fluoridation programs and the dental health benefits inherent to the program, the City of San Diego remains committed to securing outside funding to make this program a reality.

Strategy

- Water Department to contact Department of Health Services to determine status of funding source for this program.
- Water Department to consider issuing a letter to the Department of Health Services updating our fluoridation plan.